

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09276 140438Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 /050 W

----- 042019

O 110610Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9867

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, IN, CE

SUBJ: INDIAN CENSORSHIP AND US JOURNALISTS

REF: STATE 162592

1. EMBASSY CONFIRMS THAT GUIDANCE AS PREPARED IS ENTIRELY CORRECT FACTUALLY. IT IS ALSO VERY WELL PUT. WE HAD ANTICIPATED USING A VERY SIMILAR LINE. HAVE RECEIVED NO QUERIES AS OF 10:00AM THIS MORNING. IF ANY RECEIVED, WE WILL, OF COURSE, USE

DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE.

2. SEVERAL AMERICAN NEWSMEN (NOTABLY LA TIMES' JACQUES LESLIE) HAVE INDIVIDUALLY INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESS ATTACHE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS RE GOI CENSORSHIP AND POWER OF USG TO INTERVENE IN CASES OF ARRESTS OR EXPULSIONS FOR INFRACTION OF CENSORSHIP RULES. WE RECALL NO DISCUSSION WITH TAMARKIN ON THIS SUBJECT. HIS STORY
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 09276 140438Z

INDICATES JOURNALIST COLLEAGUES IN NEW DELHI AS

SOURCE.

3. IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE TAKEN REALISTIC VIEW. GOI HAS POWER TO ENFORCE ITS LAWS AND HAS WARNED NEWSMEN THAT DEFIANCE OF CENSORSHIP WOULD ENTAIL EXPULSION OR ARREST. WE CONFIRMED THAT GOI HAS TOLD EMBASSY SAME THING, PUTTING PARTICULAR STRESS ON OPEN DEFIANCE (I.E., STATEMENTS LIKE, "NO, I WILL NOT COMPLY WITH CENSORSHIP."). WE HAVE NOTED EXPERIENCE OF SOME CORRESPONDENTS, PARTICULARLY BILL STEWART OF TIME WHO GOT OUT A LONG AND FREQUENTLY CRITICAL PIECE ON DOMESTIC SITUATION LAST WEEK AFTER DIRECT AND DIPLOMATIC APPROACH TO MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SHUKLA. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT OTHER CORRESPONDENTS BY

GOING "TO THE TOP", MIGHT SMOOTH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, BUT HAVE CONSISTENTLY EMPHASIZED THAT NEWSMEN ARE OF COURSE FREE TO MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH GOI.

4. ALL AMERICAN NEWSMEN HERE ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT WE EXPRESSED OUR STRONG REGRET TO GOI AT SIMONS' EXPULSION. THEY ALSO KNOW THAT OUR ACTION HAS NOT PREVENTED GOI FROM SUBSEQUENTLY WARNING OTHER AMERICAN NEWSMEN OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF CENSORSHIP VIOLATIONS.

5. AT NO TIME HAVE WE SAID OR IMPLIED THAT: "THE EMBASSY DOES NOT WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED BY FURTHER EXPULSIONS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS FROM INDIA."
SAXBE

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